

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 19678 130402Z
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 INR-05 EB-04 MC-01 SS-15
SP-02 L-01 /038 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7507

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19678

STADIS/////////
LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS TH US
SUBJECT: PROCESSING OF FMS CASES

1. WE UNDERSTAND THROUGH MESSAGES RECEIVED BY JUSMAG THAT DSAA WILL NOT PROCESS ANY CHANGES TO EXISTING FMS CASES OR PROVIDE ANY NEW LOAS DURING THE PERIOD 11 JULY TO 1 OCTOBER 1978. THIS IS THE FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE HAD THAT THAILAND WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE LOAS DURING THE NEXT QUARTER. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON THIS.

2. IF THIS IS CORRECT, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT IMPOSITION OF SUCH RESTRICTION ON LOAS AT A TIME WHEN THAILAND IS MAKING TRANSITION FROM GRANT AID TO FMS ACQUISITION OF SPARES WILL CREATE SERIOUS LOGISTICS PROBLEMS FOR THE RTARF. ADDITIONALLY, THE THAI FISCAL YEAR ENDS 30 SEPTEMBER AND THE RTG IS ATTEMPTING TO MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF LOAS PROCESSED PRIOR TO MID-AUGUST IN ORDER TO USE APPROPRIATED FUNDS WHICH CANNOT BE CARRIED FORWARD TO NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

3. IF LOAS ARE NOT, IN FACT, TO BE ISSUED AFTER JULY 11 UNTIL NEXT FISCAL YEAR, ALL THREE SERVICES WILL EXPERIENCE GAPS IN THEIR LOGISTICS SUPPORT PROGRAM. THE RTAF, FOR EXAMPLE , HAS SOME 24
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CASES CURRENTLY PENDING AND EXPECTS TO REQUEST APPROXIMATELY 12 MORE PRIOR TO THE END OF FY 78. WE WONDER ALSO HOW THIS DECISION WILL AFFECT THE RECENT REQUEST FOR FOUR ADDITIONAL F5E AIRCRAFT (PEACE ETERNAL IV).

4. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT, IF ANY, ALTERNATIVES, MAY BE AVAILABLE TO DSAA. WE ARE EXAMINING THE TOTAL IMPACT SUCH

RESTRICTION WILL HAVE ON ALL THAI ARMED SERVICES IN ORDER TO
DETERMINE THE RESULT AND TO ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT ALTERNATE
SOLUTIONS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED
FREQUENTLY DISSATISFACTION WITH THE RESPONSIVENESS OF OUR LOGISTICS
SYSTEMS TO MEET THEIR NEEDS. THIS POINT WAS MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER

DURING THE RECENT VISITS OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND CINCPAC.
TO IMPOSE A RESTRICTION ON SUPPORT PROPOSALS THIS LATE IN THE YEAR
AND WITHOUT PRIOR WARNING OR CONSULTATION WILL NOT ONLY
IMPACT ADVERSELY ON OUR SUPPORT PROGRAMS BUT CAN ONLY CONTRIBUTE
TO GREATER RTG CONCERN OVER OUR MILITARY PROCUREMENT RELATIONSHIP.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
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